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Strengthening the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 46/152 of 18 December 1991, 60/1 of 16 September 2005, 60/177 of 16 December 2005, 61/252 of 22 December 2006, 63/193, 63/194 and 63/195 of 18 December 2008 and 63/226 of 19 December 2008,

Taking note with appreciation of the adoption by the Economic and Social Council of the strategy for the period 2008-2011 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,[1] which aims, inter alia, to enhance its effectiveness and flexibility in providing technical assistance and policy services,

Reaffirming its resolutions relating to the urgent need to strengthen international cooperation and technical assistance in promoting and facilitating the ratification and implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto,[2] the United Nations

[1] See Economic and Social Council resolutions 2007/12 and 2007/19.
[2] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vols. 2225, 2237, 2241 and 2326, No. 39574.

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Convention against Corruption[3] and all the international conventions and protocols against terrorism, including those that recently entered into force,

Reaffirming also the commitments undertaken by Member States in the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy adopted on 8 September 2006,[4] and its review of 5 September 2008,[5]

Emphasizing that its resolution 61/143 of 19 December 2006 on the intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women has considerable implications for the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme and its activities,

Welcoming the outcome of the thematic discussion on aspects of violence against women that pertain directly to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice held by the Commission at its seventeenth session, in 2008, pursuant to Economic and Social Council decision 2007/253 of 26 July 2007,

Taking into consideration all relevant Economic and Social Council resolutions, in particular resolutions 2008/23, 2008/24 and 2008/25 of 24 July 2008, and all those relating to the strengthening of international cooperation as well as the technical assistance and advisory services of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, promotion and reinforcement of the rule of law and reform of criminal justice institutions, including with regard to the implementation of technical assistance,

Welcoming also the outcome of the thematic discussion on (a) "Economic fraud and identity-related crime" and (b) "Penal reform and the reduction of prison overcrowding, including the provision of legal aid in criminal justice systems" held by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its eighteenth session, in 2009, pursuant to Economic and Social Council decision 2008/245 of 24 July 2008,

Taking note of the *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons* of February 2009 of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and of the joint Council of Europe/United Nations study, *Trafficking in organs, tissues and cells and trafficking in human beings for the purpose of the removal of organs*, of 13 October 2009,

Expressing its grave concern at the negative effects of transnational crime, including smuggling and trafficking of human beings, narcotic drugs, and small arms and light weapons on development, peace and security, and human rights, and at the increasing vulnerability of States to such crime,

Concerned by the serious challenges and threats posed by the illicit trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, and about its links with other forms of transnational organized crime, including drug trafficking and other criminal activities, including terrorism,

Emphasizing that transnational organized crime must be addressed in full respect of the principle of States' sovereignty and in accordance with the rule of law

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[3] Ibid., vol. 2349, No. 42146.

[4] Resolution 60/288.

[5] Resolution 62/272.

as part of a comprehensive response to promote durable solutions through the promotion of human rights and more equitable socio-economic conditions,

Concerned about the growing degree of penetration of criminal organizations and their proceeds into the economy,

Recognizing that actions against transnational organized crime and terrorism are a common and shared responsibility, and stressing the need to work collectively to prevent and combat transnational organized crime, corruption and terrorism in all its forms and manifestations,

Recognizing the need to maintain a balance in the technical cooperation capacity of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime between all relevant priorities identified by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council,

Recalling that 2010 marks the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and mindful of the need to ensure universal adherence to and full implementation of the Convention and the Protocols thereto,

Welcoming the adoption by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime of a regional approach to programming, based on continued consultations and partnerships at the national and regional levels, particularly on its implementation, and focused on ensuring that the Office responds in a sustainable and coherent manner to the priorities of Member States,

Taking note of the implementation of the Political Declaration on Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking, Organized Crime, Terrorism, and Other Serious Crime in the Caribbean, adopted in Santo Domingo on 19 February 2009, as well as the outcomes of the Ministerial Conference on Illicit Drug Trafficking, Transnational Organized Crime and Terrorism as Challenges for Security and Development in Central America, held in Managua on 23 and 24 June 2009, as an example of the new regional programme approach of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,

Recognizing the general progress made by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the delivery of advisory services and assistance to requesting Member States in the areas of corruption, organized crime, money-laundering, terrorism, kidnapping and trafficking in persons, including the support and protection, as appropriate, of victims, their families and witnesses, as well as drug trafficking and international cooperation, with special emphasis on extradition and mutual legal assistance,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 63/195;[6]

2. *Also takes note with appreciation* of the reports of the Secretary-General on improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons,[7] as well as on assistance in implementing the universal conventions and protocols related to

[6] A/64/123.

[7] A/63/90.

terrorism[8] and on strengthening the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity;[9]

3. *Reaffirms* the importance of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto[2] as the main tools of the international community to fight transnational organized crime;

4. *Also reaffirms* the importance of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme in promoting effective action to strengthen international cooperation in crime prevention and criminal justice, as well as of the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the fulfilment of its mandate in crime prevention and criminal justice, including providing to Member States, upon request and as a matter of high priority, technical cooperation, advisory services and other forms of assistance, and coordinating with and complementing the work of all relevant and competent United Nations bodies and offices;

5. *Calls upon* Member States to strengthen their efforts to cooperate, as appropriate, at bilateral, subregional, regional and international levels to counter effectively transnational organized crime;

6. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to enhance its efforts, within existing resources and within its mandate, in providing technical assistance and advisory services for the implementation of its regional and subregional programmes in a coordinated manner with relevant Member States and regional and subregional organizations;

7. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to finalize, as soon as possible, the Santo Domingo Pact, as well as other regional programmes, and the Managua Mechanism document for approval by the States parties in order to start their implementation with all active partners at the subregional, regional and international levels;

8. *Urges* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue providing technical assistance to Member States to combat money-laundering and the financing of terrorism through the Global Programme against Money-Laundering, in accordance with United Nations related instruments and internationally accepted standards, including, where applicable, recommendations from relevant intergovernmental bodies, inter alia, the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering, and relevant initiatives of regional, interregional and multilateral organizations against money-laundering;

9. *Recognizes* the efforts made by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to assist Member States in developing abilities and strengthening their capacity to prevent and combat kidnapping, and requests the Office to continue to provide technical assistance with a view to fostering international cooperation, in particular mutual legal assistance, aimed at effectively countering this growing serious crime;

10. *Urges* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to increase collaboration with intergovernmental, international and regional organizations that

[8] A/63/89.

[9] A/63/99.

have transnational organized crime mandates, as appropriate, in order to share best practices and to take advantage of their unique and comparative advantage;

11. *Draws attention* to the emerging policy issues identified in the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the mandates of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, with particular reference to the technical cooperation activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,[6] namely, piracy, cybercrime, sexual exploitation of children and urban crime, and invites the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to explore, within its mandate, ways and means of addressing these issues, bearing in mind Economic and Social Council resolutions 2007/12 of 25 July 2007 and 2007/19 of 26 July 2007 on the strategy for the period 2008-2011 for the Office;

12. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its existing mandate, to strengthen the collection, analysis and dissemination of information to enhance knowledge on crime trends and support Member States in designing appropriate responses in specific areas of crime, in particular in their transnational dimension, taking into account the need to make the best possible use of existing resources;

13. *Urges* Member States and relevant international organizations to develop national and regional strategies, as appropriate, and other necessary measures, in cooperation with the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, to address effectively transnational organized crime, including trafficking in persons, the smuggling of migrants and illicit manufacturing of and transnational trafficking in firearms, as well as corruption and terrorism;

14. *Urges* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to assist Member States, upon request, in combating the illicit trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, and to support them in their efforts to address its links with other forms of transnational organized crime, through, inter alia, technical assistance;

15. *Encourages* Member States to utilize, as needed, the organized crime threat assessment handbook produced by the United Nations in order to establish an accurate and uniform assessment of domestic threat and to develop responsive and appropriate strategies to combat crime;

16. *Reaffirms* the importance of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and its regional offices in building capacity at the local level in the fight against transnational organized crime and drug trafficking, and urges the Office to consider regional vulnerabilities, projects and impact in the fight against transnational organized crime, in particular in developing countries, when deciding to close and allocate offices, with a view to maintaining an effective level of support to national and regional efforts in those areas;

17. *Encourages* Member States to support the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in continuing to provide targeted technical assistance, within its existing mandate, to enhance the capacity of affected States, upon their request, to combat piracy by sea, including by assisting Member States in creating an effective law enforcement response and strengthening their judicial capacity;

18. *Urges* Member States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

and the Protocols thereto,[2] the United Nations Convention against Corruption[3] and the international conventions and protocols related to terrorism;

19. *Encourages* States parties to continue to provide full support to the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, including providing information to the conferences regarding compliance with the treaties;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in the framework of the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, to convene a special one-day high-level meeting of the General Assembly in the second quarter of 2010 on transnational organized crime, aimed at fostering universal adherence to the Convention and the Protocols thereto and at strengthening international cooperation;

21. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in the framework of the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, to organize a special treaty event to promote ratification or accession to the Convention and the Protocols thereto during the special one-day high-level meeting of the General Assembly referred to in paragraph 20 above;

22. *Urges* Member States to be represented at the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at the highest possible level, and encourage States to continue their preparations for the Congress with a view to making focused and productive contributions to the discussions;

23. *Welcomes* the progress achieved by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Crime and the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption in the implementation of their respective mandates, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to provide the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime with adequate resources to promote, in an effective manner, the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the United Nations Convention against Corruption and to discharge its functions as the secretariat of the Conferences of the Parties to the Conventions, in accordance with its mandate;

24. *Welcomes* the progress achieved by the three Open-Ended Intergovernmental Working Groups on the United Nations Convention against Corruption, established by the Conference of the States Parties to that Convention, in particular the development of the terms of reference of a review mechanism, and looks forward to the relevant decisions of the Conference at its third session;

25. *Reiterates its request* to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to enhance its technical assistance to Member States, upon request, to strengthen international cooperation in preventing and combating terrorism through the facilitation of the ratification and implementation of the universal conventions and protocols related to terrorism, in close consultation with the Counter-Terrorism Committee and its Executive Directorate, as well as to continue to contribute to the work of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, and invites Member States to provide the Office with appropriate resources for its mandate;

26. *Takes note* of the draft report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts to review and update the Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the

Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,[10] convened in accordance with Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice decision 17/1 of 18 April 2008,[11] entitled "Strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice responses to violence against women and girls", and looks forward to the consideration by the Commission of the report of the Group of Experts at its nineteenth session, to be held in Vienna in April 2010;

27. *Encourages* Member States to take relevant measures, as appropriate to their national contexts, to ensure the diffusion, use and application of the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice, including the consideration and, where they deem it necessary, dissemination of existing manuals and handbooks developed and published by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

28. *Reiterates* the importance of providing the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme with sufficient, stable and predictable funding for the full implementation of its mandates, in conformity with the high priority accorded to it and in accordance with the increasing demand for its services, in particular with regard to the provision of increased assistance to developing countries, countries with economies in transition and those emerging from conflict, in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice reform;

29. *Welcomes* resolution 18/3 adopted by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its eighteenth session, held at Vienna from 16 to 24 April 2009, entitled "Improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime", by which the Commission adopted the recommendations of the open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and established a standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on governance and finance, whose mandate shall be in effect until the session of the Commission to be held in the first half of 2011;

30. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to provide the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme with sufficient resources for the full implementation of its mandates, in conformity with its high priorities, and to provide adequate support to the Commission;

31. *Recommends* to the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, in the framework of the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, to organize a high-level segment during the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties to discuss new and emerging forms of crimes, and ways and means of enhancing the implementation of the Convention and the Protocols thereto;

32. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session on the implementation of the mandates of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, reflecting also emerging policy issues and possible responses;

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[10] Resolution 52/86, annex.

[11] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2008, Supplement No. 10* (E/2008/30), chap. I, sect. D.

33. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to include, in the report referred to in paragraph 32 above, information on the status of ratifications or accessions to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto.